

## APPENDIX M

### PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

**Friendship Heights Transportation Study**  
**Public Meeting**  
**February 19, 2003**

On February 19, 2003, the District Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., held a public meeting regarding the Friendship Heights Transportation Study. The purpose of this study is to investigate the need for traffic and truck management improvements in the Friendship Heights area. These efforts are in response to citizen concerns regarding excessive traffic and speeding in the area. The study will investigate existing and future conditions to determine the most feasible short-term and long-term traffic management and infrastructure improvements needed.

The public meeting was held at St. Mary's Armenian Church located at the intersection of Fessenden Street and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, NW which is within the study area boundaries. Colleen Smith, Ward 3 Planner with the District Department of Transportation, opened the meeting with introductions of the consulting team and background information on the Friendship Heights transportation study. Debbie Matherly, a transportation planner with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., facilitated the meeting.

**Attendees:**

Colleen Smith-District Department of Transportation  
Debbie Matherly-The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
Ji Youn Kim- The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
Melissa Bird-The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
John Sutter-Clark Realty Capital  
Dan Hertz-WMATA  
Jill Diskan-Ward 3 Resident  
Ward 3 Resident-did not sign in

**Key Issues raised during the meeting:**

Problem Intersections

- At Military and 41<sup>st</sup>, and 42<sup>nd</sup>
- At Western and 42<sup>nd</sup>, and 45<sup>th</sup>
- At Wisconsin and Garrison
- 45<sup>th</sup> and Harrison -may need to be a four-way stop
- At Garrison and 42<sup>nd</sup> – speeding through intersection

Speeding

- Residents on 43rd have debated whether or not to make the street one-way with speed humps – local petition for one-way traffic has passed twice; concern that this may promote speeding without concurrent speed humps, other measures
- Ingomar Street may have speeding problem
- Fire/Rescue *does not* seem to be using 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

Pedestrian Issues

- People crossing mid-block, Mazza Gallerie to Borders, instead of using the crosswalks or the underground metro crossing

- PUD regulations in this area reportedly prohibit pedestrian bridges
- Fessenden/River/45<sup>th</sup>- the light is not timed properly, dangerous for pedestrians

#### Bus and Truck Traffic

- Residential complaints about tour buses idling on residential streets
- Hotel buses and trucks may be using 43<sup>rd</sup> Street to get to Wisconsin
- Garrison and Wisconsin truck traffic may be caused by Rodman's trucks
- Trucks on Garrison get blocked because the loading docks are accessed from Garrison
- Delivery timing problem at loading docks in the Chevy Chase Pavilion and Mazza Gallerie
- SUV's driving over the traffic divider on Jenifer
- Trucks may be using the "thru-block connector" (used to be a public alley between 43<sup>rd</sup> and Wisconsin) going south, turning left onto Jenifer then left again on 43<sup>rd</sup>.
- Not aware of traffic complaints, buses idling on 44<sup>th</sup> related to WMATA's Western garage

#### Signage

- West side of 43<sup>rd</sup> lacks signage (e.g., parking- residents only)
- Stop signs through out the residential streets are inconsistent

#### Queuing/Back-ups

- Bus stop at Jenifer and Wisconsin (also bus shift change) may also be causing delays on Wisconsin
- Military Road has backups both AM and PM rush hours

#### Parking

- 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Jenifer, Ingomar-excessive parking problems. People coming into the area for the commercial district are using residential street parking instead of the garages
- People may be reluctant to pay to park
- Uncertain whether there is sufficient commercial parking available
- Conditions in parking garages may make them uninviting for people to park in (security, lighting etc.)- renovation at Mazza Gallerie may have ameliorated this complaint
- Valet parking at Maggiano's backs up traffic on Wisconsin Avenue in the evenings
- Maggiano's is also using the metered spaces to valet park customer cars

#### Cut-through traffic

- 43rd street: used as a short-cut to Jenifer in the mornings, short-cut to Wisconsin, alley on 43<sup>rd</sup> used as short-cut to Jenifer, mainly in the evenings
- 42<sup>nd</sup> street from Wisconsin

#### Upcoming Development

- Chevy Chase Land Company
- WMATA Western Garage – retail plus apartment units above garage
- Montgomery County side - Hecht's site, Washington Clinic site, and Geico Property
- Parking lot behind Mazza – potential site, no known plans

#### Other

Wisconsin-between Jenifer and Western, people are making U-turns in middle of street

**Friendship Heights Transportation Study**  
**ANC Meeting, March 19, 2003**  
**Summary Report**

On March 13, 2003 the District Department of Transportation presented information regarding the Friendship Heights Transportation Study at the monthly ANC 3E meeting. The meeting was held at St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church located at the intersection of Fessendon and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, NW which is within the study area boundaries. The purpose of this study is to investigate the need for traffic and truck management improvements in the Friendship Heights area. These efforts are in response to citizen concerns regarding excessive traffic and speeding in the area. The study will investigate existing and future conditions to determine the most feasible short-term and long-term traffic management and infrastructure improvements needed.

Colleen Smith, Ward 3 Planner with the District Department of Transportation gave background information on the project and introduced the Louis Berger consultants. Debbie Matherly, a transportation planner with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., facilitated the presentation. The following report is a brief summary of the issues raised by attendees regarding the Friendship Heights Transportation Study. A summary of the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was available to all attendees as well as an informational handout, map and comment card. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting in addition to the 5 ANC representatives. Twenty-five attendees signed the sign-in sheet and will be added to the Friendship Heights Transportation Study mailing list.

**Key Issues raised during the meeting:**

Problem Intersections (not already in scope)

- 41st/Military
- 42nd/Military
- 45th/Western
- 42<sup>nd</sup>/Warren
- Western/River Road (out of study area)
- Fessenden/River/Western (out of study area)
- Western/Wisconsin (out of study area)
- Garrison/42<sup>nd</sup>—speeding through intersection
- Garrison/River (out of study area)
- Garrison/Wisconsin
- 45<sup>th</sup>/Harrison—may need to be a four-way stop
- River/Brandywine (out of study area)

Signage

- West side of 43<sup>rd</sup> lacks signage (e.g., parking- residents only)
- Green and White signs are unenforceable and seem to be ignored by commuters or truck drivers (e.g., "Local Traffic only" and "No Trucks")
- Ellicott, near River Road—"No trucks" is not being reinforced.
- Stop signs through out the residential streets are inconsistent, some are on every block, some every other block
- Western between 47<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup>- "Road Narrows" is unclear to some drivers

Speeding

- Residents on 43rd have debated whether or not to make the street one-way with speed humps – local petition for one-way traffic has passed twice; concern that this may promote speeding without concurrent speed humps, other measures
- 43rd needs some traffic calming
- Ingomar may have speeding
- Fire/Rescue *does not* seem to be using 43rd

#### Bus and Truck Traffic

- Residential complaints about tour buses idling on residential streets
- Hotel buses may be using 43<sup>rd</sup>
- Trucks may be using 43<sup>rd</sup>
- Garrison and Wisconsin truck traffic may be caused by Rodman's trucks
- Trucks on Garrison get blocked because the loading docks are accessed from Garrison
- Possible issues with timing of deliveries at loading docks in the Chevy Chase Pavilion and Mazza Gallerie
- SUV's driving over the traffic divider on Jenifer
- Trucks may be using the "thru-block connector" (used to be a public alley between 43<sup>rd</sup> and Wisconsin) going south, turning left onto Jenifer then left again on 43<sup>rd</sup>.
- Not aware of traffic complaints, buses idling on 44<sup>th</sup> related to Western garage

#### Queuing/Back-ups

- Bus stop at Jenifer and Wisconsin
- Bus shift changes at this stop may also be causing delays on Wisconsin
- Military Road has backups both AM and PM rush hours
- Garrison/River-the light may not be timed properly (out of study area)

#### Parking

- 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Jenifer, Ingomar-excessive parking problems. People coming into the area for the commercial district are using residential street parking instead of the garages
- People may be reluctant to pay to park
- Uncertain whether there is sufficient commercial parking available
- Conditions in parking garages may make them uninviting for people to park in (security, lighting etc.)- renovation at Mazza may have ameliorated this complaint
- Valet parking at Maggiano's backs up traffic on Wisconsin Avenue in the evenings
- Maggiano's is also using the metered spaces to valet park customer cars

#### Cut-through traffic

- 43rd street
  - used as a short-cut to Jenifer in the mornings
  - short-cut to Wisconsin
  - alley on 43<sup>rd</sup> used as short-cut to Jenifer, mainly in the evenings
- Alley between Wisconsin and Ellicott
- 42<sup>nd</sup> street from Wisconsin
- 47<sup>th</sup> is becoming more of a cut-through

#### Pedestrian Issues

- People crossing midblock, Mazza to Borders, instead of using the crosswalks or the underground metro crossing
- PUD regulations in this area reportedly prohibit pedestrian bridges
- Fessenden/River/45<sup>th</sup>- the light is not timed properly, dangerous for pedestrians

#### Upcoming Development

- Chevy Chase Land Company
- Western Avenue Garage – retail plus apartment units above garage
- Hechts site – apartments and retail, moving Hechts
- New 120 unit condo building going up at Montgomery County Border – Washington Clinic site
- Geico Property
- Parking lot behind Mazza – potential site, no known plans

#### Other

Wisconsin-between Jenifer and Western, people are making U-turns in middle of street

**Friendship Heights Transportation Study**  
**Public Meeting #2-**  
**Findings from the Data Collection**  
**May 19, 2003**

A second public meeting was held on May 19, 2003 at 7:00 pm St. Mary's Armenian Church. The purpose of the meeting was to present the results of the most recent data collection efforts in the study area. Colleen Smith of District Department of Transportation made opening remarks on the current progress of the study. After a power point presentation from Ji Youn Kim, participants were able to ask questions and comment on preliminary proposed traffic calming measures. Approximately, 15 residents were in attendance and the

**Summary of Participant Responses**

- Concern over whether or not the cut-through issue is being thoroughly addressed, especially 43rd Street. Not sure what the road classification is, a collector street in DC is not eligible for most traffic calming measures.
- Need better enforcement of existing DC parking and traffic regulations.
- Need to thoroughly address pedestrian crossing and safety issues.
- Traffic often stops in the middle of crosswalks. Need improved signage, humps or different road texture to delineate crosswalks.
- Specific intersections needing improvement include Wisconsin Avenue/Jenifer Street and Wisconsin Avenue/Western Avenue.
- A mid-block pedestrian crossing on Wisconsin Avenue in the vicinity of the parking garage and Maggiano's may be useful.
- Parking regulations need to be reevaluated. Hours and days of parking restrictions may need to be changed. Parking meters on residential streets unlikely to be to deter illegal parking due to a lack in enforcement.
- Timing of lights needs to be assessed. Is it possible to coordinate a longer corridor of concurrent green lights?

**Friendship Heights Transportation Study**  
**Public Meeting #3**  
**Preliminary Recommendations for Traffic Calming Measures**  
**June 25, 2003**

A third public meeting was held on June 25, 2003 at 7:00 pm St. Mary's Armenian Church. The purpose of the meeting was to present the preliminary recommendations for traffic calming measures in the Friendship Heights Study Area. Colleen Smith of District Department of Transportation made opening remarks on the current progress of the study. After a power point presentation from Ji Youn Kim and Dane Ismart, participants were able to ask questions and comment on preliminary proposed traffic calming measures. Approximately, 35 residents were in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

**Issues raised by participants:**

**Roundabout**

- Does it fit into the fabric of the neighborhood?
- Would other traffic improvements preclude the need for a roundabout?
- DDOT paying to construct and maintain the roundabout
- How much surrounding land would be taken to construct the roundabout?
- Residents on Livingston Street oppose the roundabout option
- The consultant (Berger) might benefit financially by proposing the roundabout option
- General population will not know how to drive in a roundabout
- Issues with safety of pedestrians/children crossing the roundabout
- How can the roundabout option be completely removed from the final report?

**Diverter**

- Creates more cut through traffic on Jenifer Street.
- Creates more cut through traffic between Friendship Boulevard and Reno
- Changing the orientation will increase traffic on surrounding neighborhood streets
- Changing direction may force drivers south for additional blocks and then onto Military Road

**Intersections/Signalization**

- 42<sup>nd</sup>/Military-Can a traffic signal be installed?
- 44<sup>th</sup> /Western Avenue-a directional left arrow would be helpful

**Study Methodology**

- The study is too pro-commuter
- Unclear as to whether or not the study is focused on safety or moving more cars
- More pedestrian movement needs to be addressed
- Was the west side of Wisconsin Avenue studies enough?
- What is the schedule of implementation of the traffic calming measures?



- Which blocks are included for the 65percent majority needed to approve one of the traffic calming measures?
- Collectively, will implementing these measures just push traffic onto less crowded streets?
- Does the traffic model factor in traffic from future development?
- Is there coordination with MD regarding this study?

### **Parking**

- Retailers who comp parking may be encouraging more car use in the area
- Traffic is generated by people in the neighborhoods looking for parking
- Parking enforcement is not consistent
- “No Parking Signs” needed on 43<sup>rd</sup> near the alley
- Retailers should support parking validation of a 2 hour minimum

### **Truck Traffic**

- Excessive truck traffic still being generated by Rodmans Drug Store

### **Speeding**

- Continued speeding on Garrison Street
- People speeding through the intersection of Garrison Street and 44<sup>th</sup> Street
- What speed are the signals timed for on Wisconsin Avenue?

### **Other Comments**

- The midblock crossing on Wisconsin Avenue is a good idea
- Are speed tables more effective than speed humps/bumps?
- Consider alternate laning on Wisconsin Avenue since its an arterial
- The one-way alley parallel to 44<sup>th</sup> is used illegally
- DDOT needs to do a better of maintaining street markings and signs